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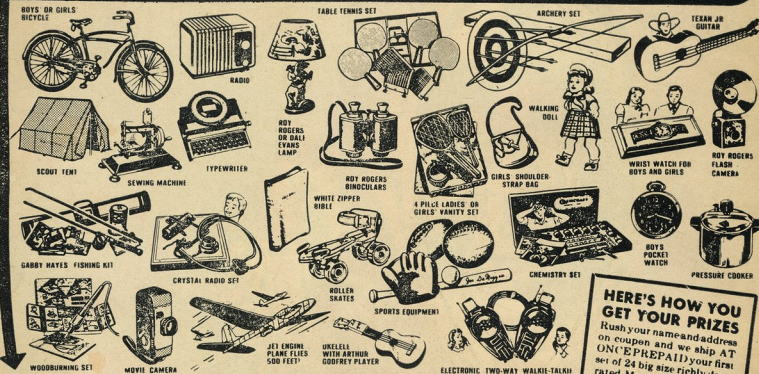
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The FUNman, Dept. X-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

JULY. 1957

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(Printed in U.S.A.)

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



THIS SEAL OF APPROVAL APPEARS ONLY ON COMIC MAGAZINES WHICH HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED, PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY, AND FOUND TO HAVE MET THE HIGH STANDARDS OF MORALITY AND GOOD TASTE REQUIRED BY THE CODE. THE CODE AUTHORITY OPERATES APART FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL PUBLISHER AND EXERCISES INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT WITH RESPECT TO CODE-COMPLIANCE. A COMIC MAGAZINE BEARING ITS SEAL IS YOUR ASSURANCE OF GOOD READING AND PICTORIAL MATTER.

Alfred P. Fago Executive Editor

The FORBIDDEN ROOM

MARCH 13TH, 1896...ANOTHER MYSTERY UN-DREAMED OF IN A PLACE STILL UNEXPLORED! FROM BEHIND THE THICK CLOUDS THAT OBSCURED THE DESOLATE MOUNTAIN-TOP, A VOICE RUMBLED ANGRILY...

IT MUST NEVER
HAPPEN AGAIN...
NEVER!

THE SELFSAME WIND THAT A MOMENT AGO HAD SCUDDLED SWIFTLY OVER THE MOUNTAIN-TOP, SHRILLED NOW THROUGH LOWER AIR, CARRYING A CARGO OF SOME GRAINS OF SAND! THE WIND KEPT SPEEDING WEST-WARD...

AND WEST WARD LAY THE GLOOMY PILE OF STONE, DEXTER HALL, WHICH CONTAINED THE FORBIDDEN ROOM!

PLEASE, MR. PHILIP,
WE BEG OF YOU!
DO NOT ENTER
THAT ACCURRED
ROOM!

S. DITKO

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



OF COURSE, SIR! BUT ONLY A MADMAN WOULD GO IN THERE!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

HIS HUMBLE WORDS HAD MASKED A SILEN BITTERNESS. HOW HE HATED THE WEALTHY WASTREL WHO EMPLOYED HIM AS PERSONAL AIDE AND PAID HIM WITH CAST-OFF CLOTHES AND A NARROW ROOM IN THE SERVANT'S QUARTERS...

FEAR OF OLD AGE HAD BEEN THE ONE CHINK IN THE ARMOR OF THAT CRUEL AND SELFISH MAN! FEAR OF DECREPITUDE... AND THE END OF HIS ROUND OF PLEASURES...

AFTER ALL, UNCLE, YOU HAVE ALWAYS LIVED TO THE HILT! AND TIME MUST TAKE IT'S TOLL!

TELL ME THE TRUTH, PHILIP! HAVE I BE-GUN TO AGE?

NOT OLD, UNCLE! A FEW WRINKLES, PERHAPS! A GREY HAIR OR TWO!

NO!
NO!



I SAY NO! WITH ALL MY MONEY, WHY SHOULD I BE SUBJECT TO TIME? THERE MUST BE SPECIAL DOCTORS! I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH THEY CHARGE! PHILIP-- FIND ME SOMEONE WHO CAN WARD OFF OLD AGE... AND YOU SHALL KNOW MY GRATITUDE!

A WEEK LATER, PHILIP HAD BROUGHT THE SWAMI TO SEE HIS UNCLE...

YES, I CAN DO AS YOU WISH! BUT ONE ROOM IN THIS HOUSE MUST BE SEALED OFF TO EVERYBODY BUT YOU!

WITH YOUR NEPHEW'S HELP, I SHALL PREPARE THIS ROOM! AND THEN YOU SHALL ENTER THIS ROOM ONCE A MONTH... ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE MONTH... AND IN THE MIRROR INSIDE THE ROOM, YOU SHALL SEE WHAT YOU SHALL SEE!



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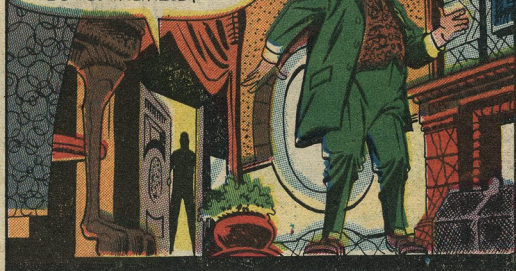
Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



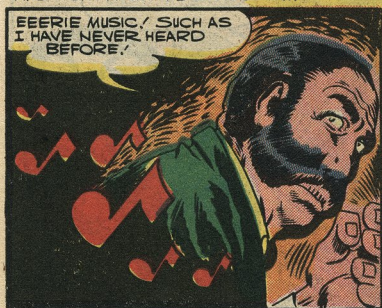
NOW THE SWAMI HAD PRO-
NOUNCED THE ROOM READY...
AND THE SWAMI HAD TAKEN
HIS LEAVE ...



WHY DO YOU TREMBLE, UNCLE? IT IS MERELY A ROOM... THE FURNITURE IS ALL NEW, 18 PIECES SUPPLIED BY YOUR REGULAR DEALER! WHY DO YOU TREMBLE?



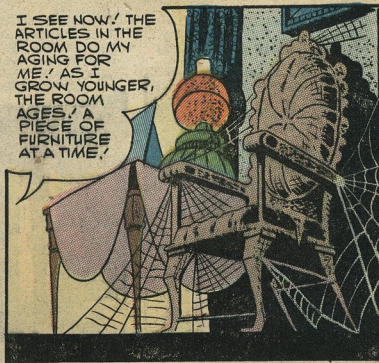
BUT THEN THE DOOR HAD SLAMMED BEHIND HIM, AND THE LIGHTS INSIDE THE ROOM HAD DIMMED WITH FRIGHTENING SUDDENNESS, AND THEN, FROM THE SHADOWS...



AND THEN ... THE MIRROR GLOWS! IT MUST BE TIME FOR ME... TO SEE WHAT I SHALL SEE!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



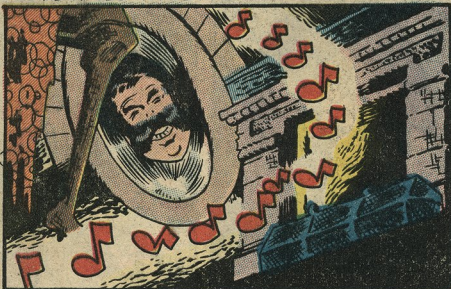
Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

BUT HIS UNCLE HAD BEEN TOO ELATED TO DO MORE THAN SHUDDER MOMENTARILY, AND THEN BRUSH OFF THE CHILLING THOUGHT, AND NOW...

MY DEAR UNCLE FEELS YOUNG AGAIN! HE PURSUES HIS ROUND OF PLEASURES WITH GREAT VIGOR!



A YEAR AND A HALF PASSED, WITH HIS UNCLE LIVING EVER MORE STRENUOUSLY, DEPENDING UPON THE ROOM TO WARD OFF WHAT WOULD BE THE NORMAL CONSEQUENCES OF SO MUCH CAROUSING TO A MAN SO ADVANCED IN AGE...



AND THEN, ONE DAY...

PH-PHILIP! C-CAN'T BREATHE...CALL MY DOCTOR...



HIS HEART HAS BEEN SEVERELY STRAINED-- HE MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE REST, AND NO EXCITEMENT!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT...

I MUST GO TO MY ROOM, PHILIP! THIS IS THE THIRD DAY OF THE MONTH! LET ME GO!

BUT 19 MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU FIRST BEGAN USING THE ROOM, UNCLE! THERE ARE ONLY 18 PIECES OF FURNITURE IN THERE!



D-DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME, PHILIP! THAT'S WHAT Y-YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING... TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME!



I MUST GO INSIDE!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

INSIDE THE ROOM, THE LIGHTS HAD DIMMED AS ALWAYS... THE EERIE MUSIC HAD PLAYED, AND THE MIRROR HAD GLOWED...



THE SHOCK, PROVIDED BY THAT FACE, WITHERED INTO HIDEOUSNESS BY AGE, HAD BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIS UNCLE'S HEART...



ALL THAT, PHILIP DEXTER WAS REMEMBERING AS HE STOOD OUTSIDE THE ROOM NOW, WITH THE SERVANTS STILL PLEADING WITH HIM NOT TO ENTER...

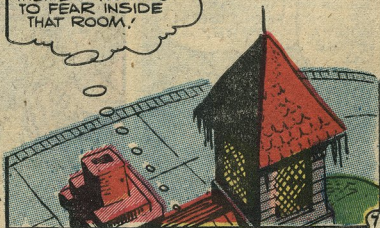


BUT PHILIP DEXTER WAS REMEMBERING FURTHER...



AT THAT MOMENT, THE SELFSAME WIND THAT SCUDDLED SWIFTLY OVER THE MOUNTAIN-TOP, WAS KEEPING NOW OVER THE ROOF OF DEXTER HALL, ITS CARGO OF TINY SAND GRAINS STILL INTACT...

...AND I HAVE MY REASONS FOR BEING CERTAIN THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR INSIDE THAT ROOM!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

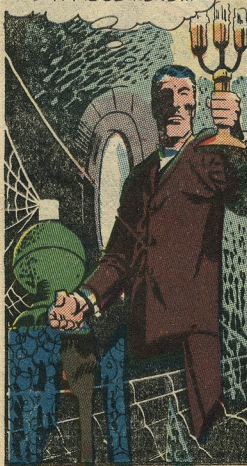
...BECAUSE THE WHOLE TRUMPERY WAS OF MY DOING, THE SWAMI WAS AN ACTOR HIRED BY ME. I KEPT CHANGING THE FURNITURE... I ARRANGED ALL THE EERIE EFFECTS... IT WAS I, WEARING DIFFERENT MASKS, WHO APPEARED IN WHAT MY UNCLE THOUGHT WAS A MIRROR!



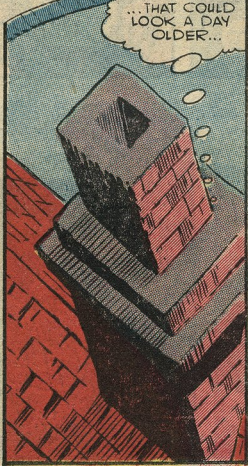
MY SCHEME WORKED PERFECTLY! IT HASTENED MY UNCLE'S DEATH JUST AS I HAD PLANNED! AND NOW I MUST GO INSIDE TO DESTROY EVERY LAST SHRED OF EVIDENCE THAT IF LEFT UNTOUCHED MIGHT SOME DAY TELL THE TALE OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED!



HMPF... I CHOSE FINE ANTIQUES TO FOOL MY UNCLE WITH! THERE'S NOT A PIECE HERE...



...THAT COULD LOOK A DAY OLDER...



A SLIT-SECOND LATER...

WH-WHAT IS THIS? THE FURNITURE CRUMBLING... THE DRAPES FALLING INTO DUST?



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



...AND LOOK (GROAN) AT MY HAND!!



THE ROOM IS ACCURSED! AND THIS (SOB) IS MY PUNISHMENT!



YOU WERE RIGHT! LOOK! LOOK AT WHAT THE ROOM HAS DONE TO ME! (SOB)



LATER...

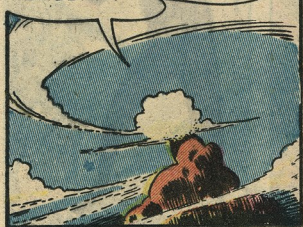
THIS IS THE ROOM.

ALL RIGHT, THAT DEXTER MENTIONED IN HIS CONFESSION!

YES, BUT THE HOUSEKEEPER AND BUTLER CLAIM THAT HE AGED FIFTY YEARS IN THERE WITHIN A FEW SECONDS! WE HAVE OUR MAN BEHIND BARS, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT JUST COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED? LET US SEE ...

IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN! NEVER! THOSE GRAINS OF SAND CARRIED OFF BY THE WIND CAN CAUSE TIME TO JUMP AHEAD FIFTY YEARS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF ANY ENCLOSURE THEY COME TO REST IN!



FORTUNATELY, IT WAS NOT AN ILL WIND THAT BORE THEM OFF! BUT IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN! NEVER!

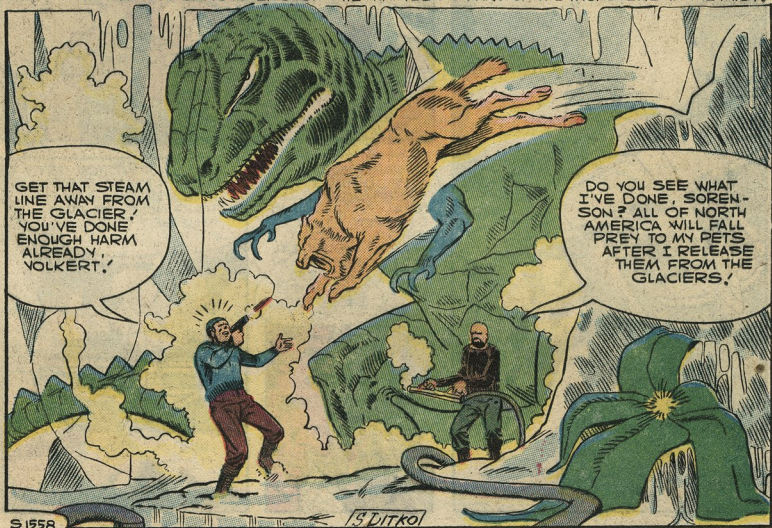


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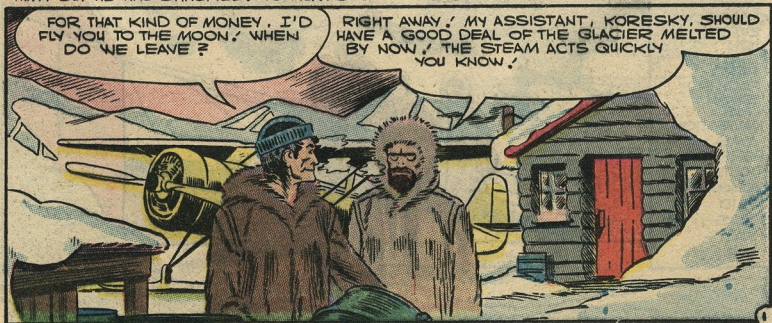
Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

VALLEY IN THE MIST

EVEN THE EXISTING MAPS IGNORED THE DESOLATE WASTELAND FAR NORTH OF FAIRBANKS! SOCK SORENSON WISHED HE'D NEVER LAID EYES ON THE VALLEY WHERE NO MAN HAD TROD BEFORE, AFTER HE LEARNED ITS TERRIBLE SECRET! FLYING A CHARTER PLANE IN THE NORTH WAS DANGEROUS ENOUGH -- HE WANTED NO PART OF THE MONSTERS IN THE MIST!



SOCK SORENSON WASN'T GETTING RICH BEFORE DOCTOR ERNST VOLKERT CONTACTED HIM, BUT HE WAS SATISFIED. VOLKERT'S AMPLE FEE SHOULD HAVE WARNED HIM ...

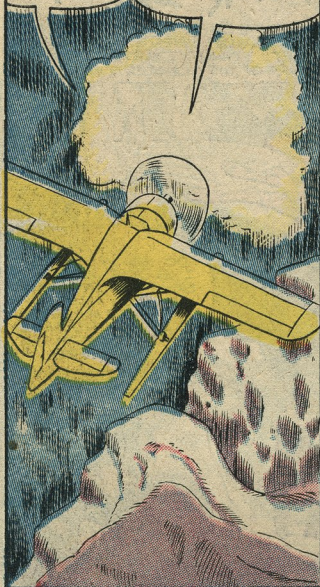


Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

AN HOUR LATER, SOCK SORENSON AND HIS PASSENGER WERE ON THEIR WAY...

THAT'S A FUNNY CLOUD-- IT LOOKS LIKE STEAM.

IT IS, OF VOLCANIC ORIGIN. VLADIMIR WORKED OUT A PLAN TO DIVERT AN UNDERGROUND STREAM TO A VOLCANIC FISSURE.



THAT WARM AIR FORMS A MURDEROUS UPDRAFT. I'LL MARK IT ON THE NAVIGATION CHART TO WARN OTHERS.

DON'T DO THAT. THEN OTHERS MAY FIND IT.

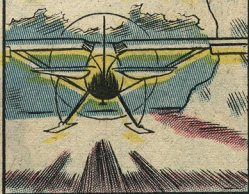


I WARN YOU, I'M NOT JOKING. SORENSON, I SHALL DESTROY THIS MAP.

THAT WON'T HELP. I'LL MARK IT ON ANOTHER ONE WHEN I GET BACK.



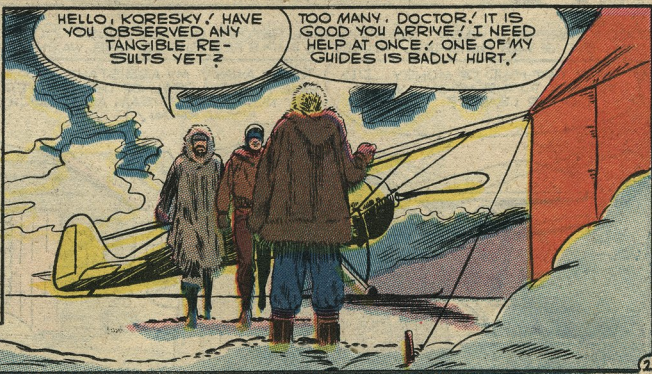
YOU MEAN IF YOU GET BACK, LAND SAFELY-- IF YOU BREAK ANYTHING NONE OF US WILL GET OUT.



SORENSON FOUND A CLEARED STRIP ON THE HARD-PACKED SNOW. HIS NAVIGATION WAS PERFECT... DOCTOR VOLKERT'S AID WAS WAITING...

HELLO, KORESKY, HAVE YOU OBSERVED ANY TANGIBLE RESULTS YET?

TOO MANY, DOCTOR. IT IS GOOD YOU ARRIVE. I NEED HELP AT ONCE. ONE OF MY GUIDES IS BADLY HURT.



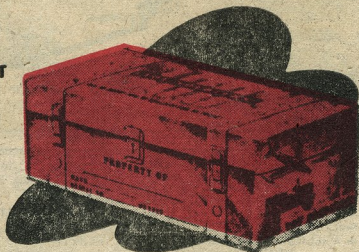
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HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD! WHAT SORT OF CREATURE DID IT?

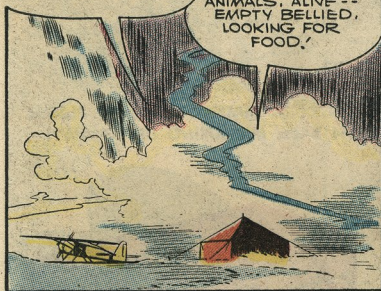
A SABER TOOTHED TIGER! BIG FELLOW!

WHAT? YOU'D BETTER FLY BACK WITH ME! YOU'RE GETTING BUSHY! HAPPY!



THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BIG CAT-- AND AN ELEPHANT! THAT COULDN'T BE!

IT IS, THOUGH! BEHIND THAT MIST ARE COUNTLESS PREHISTORIC ANIMALS, ALIVE -- EMPTY BELLED, LOOKING FOR FOOD!



YOU THINK I LIE, SORENSON? LISTEN, BOTH OF YOU...



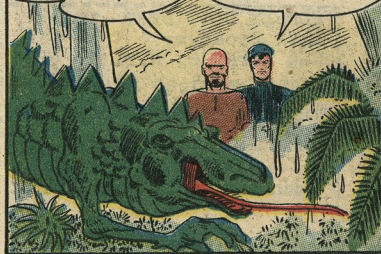
AFTER DR. VOLKERT ATTENDED TO THE WOUNDED ESKIMO, KORESKY LED THE WAY TO THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS ATTACKED...

YOU'D BETTER SHED THE FURS, DOCTOR-- IT'S HOT IN HERE!



SEE? THIS LIZARD WILL SOON BE SCAMPERING AROUND IN THE JUNGLE LIKE A TWO YEAR OLD -- AND HE WAS BORN A MILLION YEARS AGO!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE! WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS? IS IT ALL IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE AND SO FORTH?



THAT IS FOR IMPRACTICAL FOOLS! NO, I LIBERATE THESE MONSTERS FOR ANOTHER REASON! THEY WILL RANGE SOUTH ON YOUR CONTINENT AND TERRIFY YOUR SOFT, DECADENT POPULACE! THEN WE WILL TAKE OVER!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

WAIT!
REMAIN
WITH
US!
WE
MAY
NEED
YOU.

I'M GOING
BACK TO THE
'SOFT, DECA-
DENT' POPULACE!
YOU FANATICS
MAKE ME SICK
TO MY STOMACH!

STOP!
ONE
MORE
STEP
AND...
LINGH!

HERE'S A
CAPITALISTIC
PUNCH IN
THE JAW,
VOLKERT!

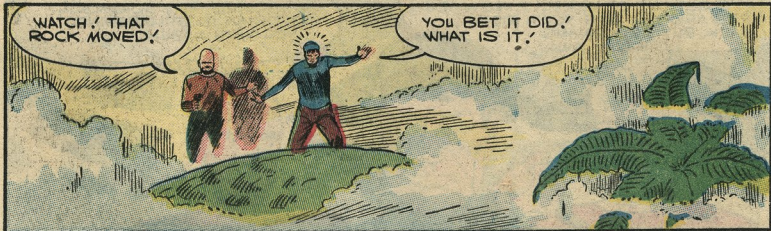
DO NOT
ATTEMPT
THAT WITH
ME! HELP
DR. VOLKERT
TO HIS
FEET.

I KNOW
WHEN I'M
LICKED!
YOU TWO
HOLD ALL
THE ACES!



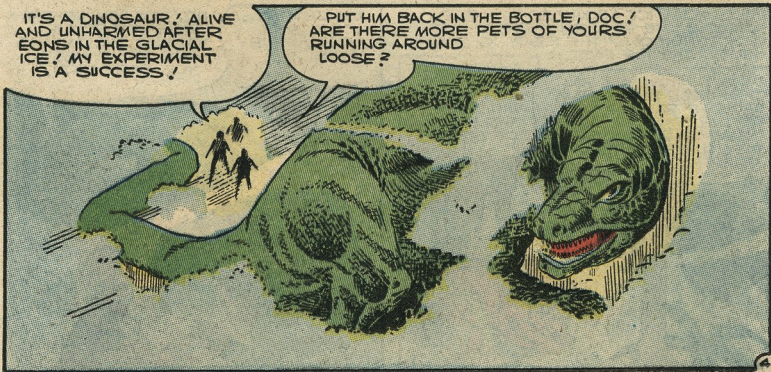
WATCH! THAT
ROCK MOVED!

YOU BET IT DID!
WHAT IS IT!



IT'S A DINOSAUR! ALIVE
AND UNHARMED AFTER
EONS IN THE GLACIAL
ICE! MY EXPERIMENT
IS A SUCCESS!

PUT HIM BACK IN THE BOTTLE, DOC!
ARE THERE MORE PETS OF YOURS
LOOSE?



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

LOOK! EVEN THE WARM BLOODED ANIMALS SURVIVED! IT IS INCREDIBLE! BUT IT SUPPORTS MY THEORY! THE OTHERS LAUGHED BUT NOW I LAUGH!



VOLKERT HAD HIS LAUGH... BUT THE SABER TOOTHED TIGER WASN'T IN ON THE JOKE...



LOOK OUT, VOLKERT!



POW!
POW!

THIS SHOULD SLOW HIM DOWN!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I FLEW YOU HERE AND I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE BACK BUT I'M LEAVING RIGHT AWAY..



NO, YOU'RE NOT, SORENSON! KORESKY IS STILL BEHIND YOU WITH A GUN!

THE GLACIAL ICE ABOUNDED WITH PRE-HISTORIC LIFE FROZEN THERE IN PERFECT CONDITION! THE SEARING STEAM MELTED THE ICE FAST...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CHanneled THAT STEAM UP HERE BUT YOU'D BETTER STOP IT! WITH THESE THINGS LOOSE, THEY'LL WRECK THE COUNTRY!

EXACTLY! AFTER THAT HAPPENS, I WILL STOP THE FLOW OF STEAM!



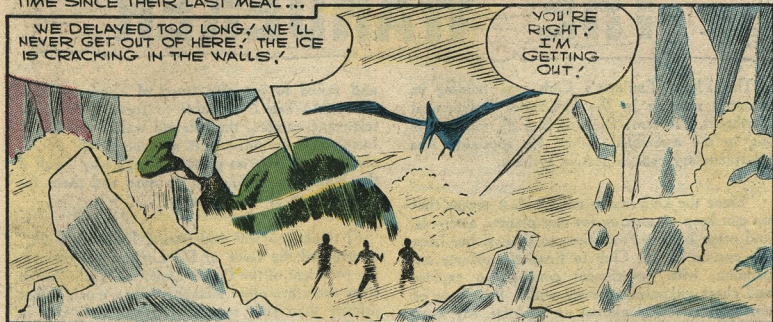
I'M GETTIN'... LOOK OUT! WE'LL ARGUE OUTSIDE!

NO! YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE! YOU WILL LIVE ONLY AS LONG AS WE NEED YOU, SORENSON!

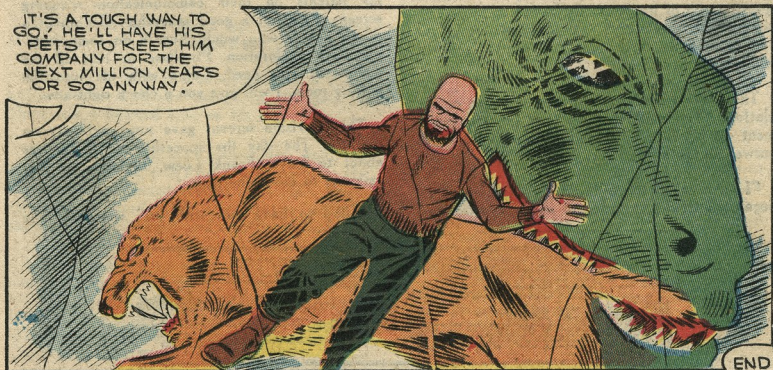


Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

WHILE SORENSON FOLLOWED THE SCIENTIST, MORE AND MORE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS WERE COMING TO LIFE. THEY WERE ALL VORACIOUS--IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THEIR LAST MEAL...



THEN, THERE WAS A GRINDING, EARTH-SHAKING ROAR, AND THE CLEAR ICE SUDDENLY CLOSED INCHES IN FRONT OF SORENSON...



THE WANDERER

The Planet Explorer's Club was holding its monthly meeting in the Helicopter Building at Earthport. Professor Richard S. Falk was speaking to the assembled group. His speciality was interplanetary communication systems.

"Since the Universe is unlimited, it means that we can keep on looking for new planets, asteroids, and other bodies. From time to time, it has been the custom of this Club to finance a private expedition, with government consent, to explore and chart unknown territory within the range of our solar system. I am not an explorer. My work consists of studying new and better methods of communicating with our spaceships and the other planets. But I guess there is within each of us the desire to explore and to find some unknown place that has hitherto not felt the landing gear of an earth spaceship. I should like to explore an asteroid which I have observed in the sky. Its distance is about half a million miles from earth."

When Professor Falk finished, there was silence in the club room. Members looked at each other in a puzzled manner. Finally, John Meister, the famous spaceship pilot, arose from his seat.

"Pardon me, Professor, he began. "For the past twenty years I have guided spaceships of all kinds from Earthport to the Moon, to Jupiter, to Saturn, and to Mars. I think I know the Universe Standard Guide Chart better than any other pilot. What unknown asteroid is there about half a million miles from earth? Have you made a spectrograph of its gases? Or have you an image-picture with a telephoto telescopic camera? Have you charted its revolutions and figured out the angle of its axis?"

There was a sigh from the man standing on the platform. You could see the look of discouragement on his face as he was wondering how to answer all those questions.

"I have called the asteroid the Wanderer," he began. "I tried five times to use a spectroscope

and failed to get any trace of a gas on that asteroid. When I was able to focus a telephoto telescopic camera, the asteroid wasn't there. Unfortunately its movements are completely out of course. It follows no pattern. That's why I call it the Wanderer. It likes to go here and there for some reason as yet unknown."

"I think you will understand, Professor Falk," interrupted the voice of Dr. Lorenzo Cuddeback, the president of the Planet Explorers' Club, "when I say there are other missions with a much higher priority than your request. Perhaps some day in the future, we may be able to put at your disposal a spaceship, but not now. Gentlemen, we have other business for our consideration. The new light weight planetary landing suit has been successful."

For the next two hours conversation was about this suit, the use of new fuels, and the possibility of sending a spaceship to the Second Galaxy for exploration. When the meeting was over, the Professor started to leave the club room. John Meister came over to him.

"I hope I didn't hurt your feelings," he half apologized. "Any time you can finance your own expedition with your own funds, let me know."

"Perhaps you are joking and perhaps you are serious," retorted the Professor. "I do happen to be a very wealthy man. The government of Mars has been paying me a lot of money for the use of my patents on their communication scanning screens. Pick out a good spaceship. Get about a dozen people who would like to do some interplanetary exploration. Purchase or rent all the equipment you need. Come with me into the waiting room. I will give you a check right now."

The television screens gave some publicity on the trip. The day the spaceship BRUTUS was about to leave, Frank Loew, the reporter was assigned to cover the trip.

"Glad to have you with us," welcomed the

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 14, 1913, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1907, AND JULY 1, 1908 (39 STAT. 201, 401 AND 251) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND REGULATION OF PUBLICATIONS OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

Published Bi-monthly at Derby, Conn., for September 26, 1935.

1. The name and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager: **Unemployed Workers, Inc., 100 North Main Street, Derby, Conn.**

2. The owner: **Unemployed Workers, Inc., 100 North Main Street, Derby, Conn.**

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Checked From the Charter Building, Derby, Conn.

Edward L. Whittier, Conn.

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Professor. "Is there any special reason why they sent you instead of their regular interplanetary correspondent?"

"My great grandfather was one of the original crew that left this field in the first exploratory spaceship, MONITOR. As you know, from the history books, it vanished. What happened to it and the members of the crew are still a mystery," replied the reporter. "Maybe I should have been an explorer. I asked for this chance to go with you."

At high noon the spaceship BRUTUS left Earthport. The departure was shown on the television screens, and then, a minute later, it was followed by another event, showing the meeting of the new Martian Ambassador with the president of the Earth Science Council. Inside the spaceship, the Professor and John Meister were looking over some charts. A small dot in red ink had been placed on one of them.

"This is about where the asteroid should be," said the Professor. "Though I may be off by about twenty or thirty thousand Galactic miles. Set your automatic controls for that point and we'll check on the radar screen."

Nothing unusual happened on the trip and to everybody's delightful surprise, the asteroid came into sight. It was a small body. The retarding jets of the spaceship went into effect and the landing was done perfectly. The reporter, John Meister, and the Professor donned their space suits and left their ship. The surface of the asteroid was fairly soft, as though it were a kind of mud. The asteroid was uninhabited. The professor took a sample of the surface of the asteroid and then the three men returned to their spaceship.

"I'll make a quick check and see what kind of material this is," he told the two other men.

Within an hour he had completed both a chemical as well as a physical analysis of the material. There was a puzzled look on his face.

"This is what we once called star dust," he said. "Actually we aren't on a true asteroid. The star dust has collected around some inner firmer substance. Tomorrow we could cut a ditch or channel with a blast gun and see what is beneath."

No sooner had those words been spoken, when something strange happened. The speed of the so-called asteroid began to change as well as its direction. There was no apparent danger to the spaceship and the men inside of it. This condition lasted for about two hours. Then the so-called

asteroid went back to what had apparently been its normal course.

"No wonder you couldn't get a fix on it with a telephoto telescopic camera," explained John Meister. "When you got the fix where it should be, it wasn't there."

The next day a group of men started to cut a channel on the WANDERER with a blast gun. They stopped when their control panel showed the rays were touching some kind of metal. Then the Professor descended into the wide ditch. He spoke to the others over his intercom phone.

"Come down here at once. There's an old time spaceship buried here."

The rest of the men descended and worked carefully removing the star dust. The reporter was the one who noticed the name of the old spaceship.

"It's the MONITOR," he shouted over his intercom phone. "Let's force open the escape hatch and see what is inside."

Twenty minutes later the men were all inside the old time spaceship. It was completely deserted. But on the captain's desk was his log. The last entry could be clearly read:

"We are caught in a star drift. Our fuel is gone. We can't contact any other rescue party as we are the first spaceship to leave earth. We'll try to get back with our space suits." Captain Loew.

The old spaceship was finally freed from the accumulation of star dust. It was then coupled up to the BRUTUS and the return trip was made to earth.

There was rejoicing in the scientific field when the results were known. This time, when the Professor spoke at the Planet Explorers' Club, there was a hookup to every other planet in the universe.

"Those brave men in the first spaceship did not make a trip in vain. We have duplicated the motor used to drive that ship. Its first fuel was the insufficient Simpson pile. Yet that spaceship moved in the universe. Why? Because the star dust activated its motor. We now have a new fuel made from star dust, and that spaceship shall be called the Monitor-Wanderer. You will forgive me for being personal, but the money I get from the new fuel will be used to set up a fund so those who wish to explore beyond, may do so."

THE END

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Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

VOICES FROM THE DARK

IT WAS DARK, IN THE SWAMP-HIDDEN SHACK. DARK AND QUIET. NO ONE HAD BEEN WITHIN MILES OF IT FOR YEARS. THE HERMIT WANTED IT THAT WAY, BUT SUDDENLY THERE WERE VOICES. HUMAN VOICES CALLING HIM FROM OUT THERE...



TEDDY! TEDDY,
COME BACK!
TEDDY!

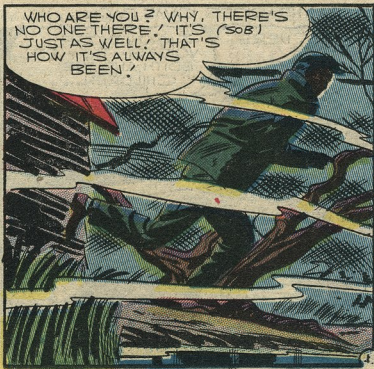
W-WHO'S CALLING
ME? HOW DID THEY
FIND ME? WHY
ARE THEY OUT
THERE?

HE HADN'T BEEN CALLED TEDDY SINCE
HIS CHILDHOOD...

HOW DID THEY EVER
FIND OUT ABOUT
MY NAME?



WHO ARE YOU? WHY, THERE'S
NO ONE THERE. IT'S (sob)
JUST AS WELL, THAT'S
HOW IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



THAT'S WHAT DROVE ME INTO THE SWAMP! EVERYBODY SEEMED TO IGNORE ME ALL THE TIME! EVEN MOM AND DAD...



IT'S SO LONESOME NOW THAT THE BIG ONES ARE MARRIED! THAT'S HOW IT IS WHEN YOUR FIRST BORN GO OUT INTO THE WORLD!

MOM, DAD-- I'M HERE! DON'T I COUNT?



I SUPPOSE THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED AS WE GROW OLDER!

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, IF ONLY...

MOTHER, DAD! DON'T YOU SEE ME? DON'T YOU HEAR ME? OH, WHAT'S THE USE - THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M AROUND!

THAT'S WHAT DROVE ME AWAY FROM THE WORLD! I NEEDED WARM RELATIONSHIPS BUT ALL I FOUND WAS REJECTION! COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR ME!



THEN THE VOICES CAME BACK...



TEDDY, HERE WE ARE! TEDDY!

I KNOW THOSE VOICES-- THEY'RE EDITH AND THE CHILDREN...

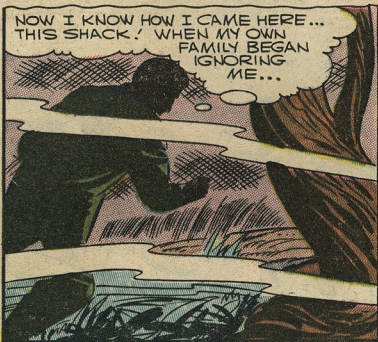
RECOGNITION OF THE VOICES STIRRED A LOST CHORD IN THE HERMIT'S MEMORY...



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

SUDDENLY THE PAST CAME FLOODING IN...

NOW I KNOW HOW I CAME HERE...
THIS SHACK! WHEN MY OWN
FAMILY BEGAN
IGNORING
ME...



AS A GROWN MAN, HE HAD BEEN A
SCIENTIST DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE
PROBLEMS OF TIME AND UNEXPLORED
DIMENSIONS...

THAT'S IT! THE INTER-
RELATIONS OF TIME AND MOTION ARE
CONSTANT AND WITH THE COEFFICIENT
DERIVED FROM THE PARALLEL VALUES
ESTABLISHED BY THE AXIAL VARIATION
OF EARTH AND STARS, WE CAN ARRIVE
AT THE PARALLEL
EXPERIENCE OF
THE OTHER
WORLDS!



AFTER YEARS OF EXPERIMENTS, AT LAST THE MACHINE WAS PERFECTED...

...MERELY BY PRESSING THAT LEVER, I CAN GO OFF
INTO A PARALLEL WORLD WHERE I CAN SEE AND
HEAR THIS ONE WHILE BEING INVISIBLE TO IT!



AND THEN IT HAPPENED! HE TRIPPED
AND FELL AGAINST THE LEVER TO
ACTIVATE THE PARALLEL TIME CON-
VERTER...

MUSTN'T THROW
THE LEVER
YET! MUSTN'T...



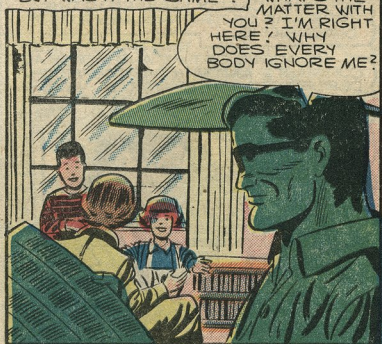
AFTER THE FALL, IT HAD BEEN HARD TO
REALIZE ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED...

WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?
EVERYTHING SEEMS
THE SAME!



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

BUT WAS IT THE SAME ?



WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH
YOU ? I'M RIGHT
HERE ! WHY
DOES EVERY
BODY IGNORE ME ?

BUT THEY DIDN'T HEAR HIM ...



CAN IT BE ... DID I PUSH THE LEVER
WHEN I FELL ? NO-- IT CAN'T BE,
IT'S JUST THAT THEY DON'T CARE
FOR ME ! JUST LIKE MY FOLKS !

HE FOUND REASSURANCE
IN THE FAMILIAR SUR-
ROUNDINGS OF THE
LABORATORY ...



BETTER CHECK MY
FIGURES BEFORE I
WRITE THE THESIS !

FOR WEEKS THE WORK OF
RECHECKING HIS FIGURES
OCCUPIED HIM TILL LATE
EACH NIGHT ...



THAT DOES IT ! IT
ALL CHECKS
OUT !

IT ALL CHECKED OUT,
DARLING ! IT WORKS !
WHAT'S WRONG ?
DON'T YOU
HEAR ME ?



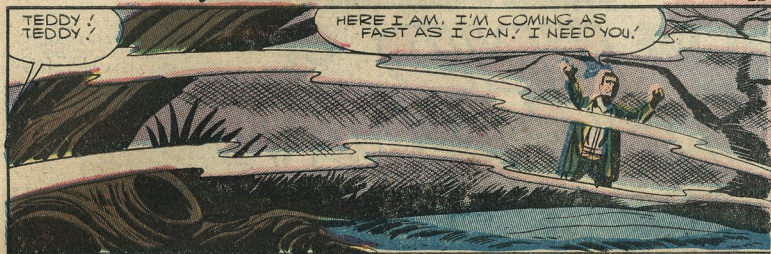
THAT'S
WHEN,
UNABLE
TO
ACCEPT
THE
REJEC-
TION
ANY
FURTHER,
HE
RAN
AWAY
TO
THE
SWAMP.
AND NOW...



COME BACK, TEDDY !
COME BACK !

WAIT FOR ME, EVERY BODY !
WAIT-- I'M COMING !

Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



TEDDY!
TEDDY!

HERE I AM. I'M COMING AS
FAST AS I CAN. I NEED YOU!



HELP! I'M
FALLING INTO
THE PIT!



WHERE
AM I?

WHY, YOU'RE
HOME, DARLING!
AT
LAST YOU'VE
COME OUT OF
YOUR COMA!



I'M SO GLAD YOU
CALLED ME -- BUT HOW
DID YOU KNOW MY PET
NAME? NOBODY
CALLED ME THAT
SINCE I WAS
A CHILD!



CALLED YOU? PET NAME?
DARLING, WE HAVEN'T
CALLED YOU SINCE YOU
FELL INTO THE COMA
SIX MONTHS AGO!

BUT
SOME-
BODY'S
BEEN
CALLING
ME! I CAN
STILL HERE
IT!

HERE,
TEDDY!
TEDDY!



HERE, TEDDY! COME
BACK HERE, TEDDY!

END

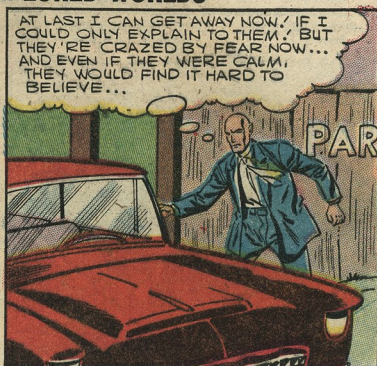
Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

AT THE **END** OF **THE ROAD**

FEAR AND PANIC
ALWAYS CROWD IN
ON MEN WHO SEE
SOMETHING THEY
DO NOT UNDER-
STAND ...



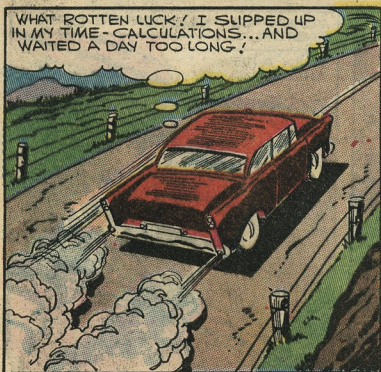
Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



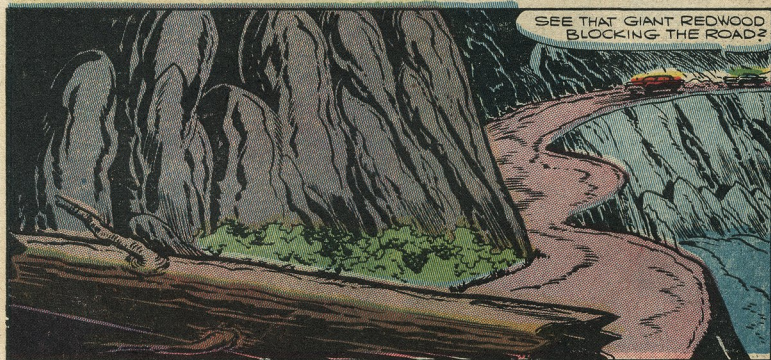
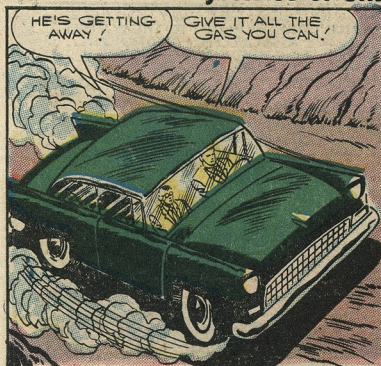
... THAT 300 EARTH YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE LUKI GAVE ME MY ORDERS...



BECAUSE OF OUR LONG LIFE SPAN, LUKI'S ORDERS WEREN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW...



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



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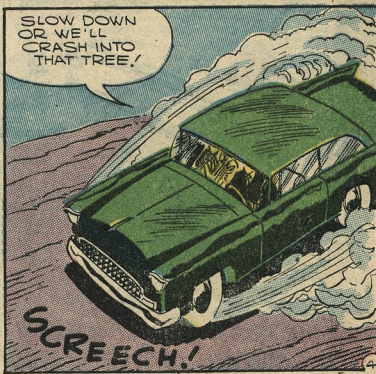
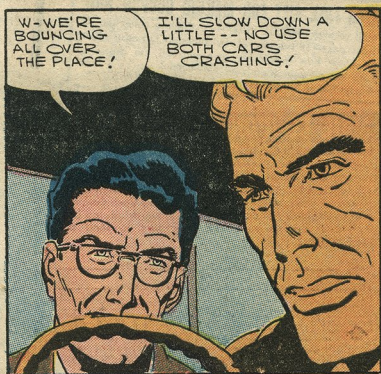
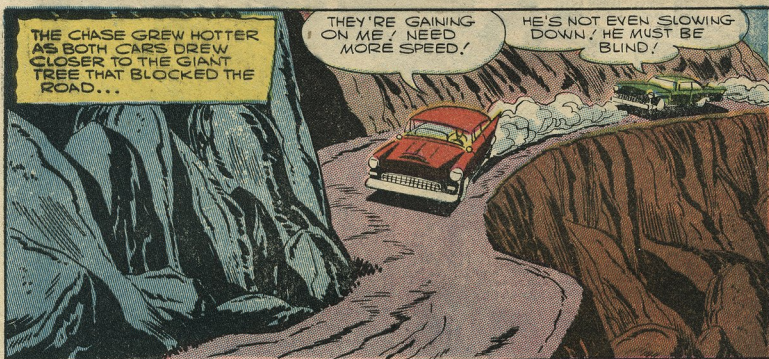
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Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS



Mysteries of UNEXPLORED WORLDS

BUT NAMO HURTLERD ON AT TOP SPEED...

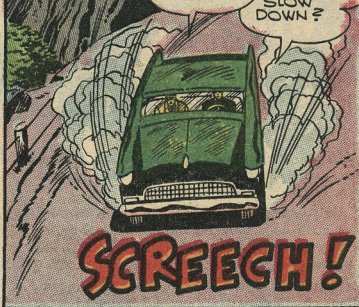
JUST A FEW YARDS MORE AND IT'LL BE ALL OVER!



MEANWHILE...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

WHY DOESN'T THE FOOL SLOW DOWN?



I-I CAN'T LOOK!

POOR GUY! WHAT A FINISH!



THEN IT HAPPENED IN A TREMENDOUS RUSH OF WIND AND NOISE...

WONDER WHO THE POOR GUY WAS?



I MADE IT! WHAT THE EARTHLINGS THOUGHT WAS ONE OF THEIR GIANT TREES, WAS ACTUALLY MY SPACECRAFT! MY PEOPLE SHALL KNOW THAT THE EARTHLINGS ARE PEACEABLE!



END

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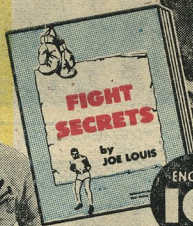
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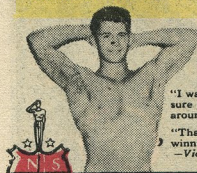
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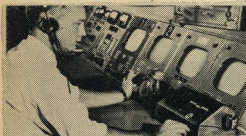
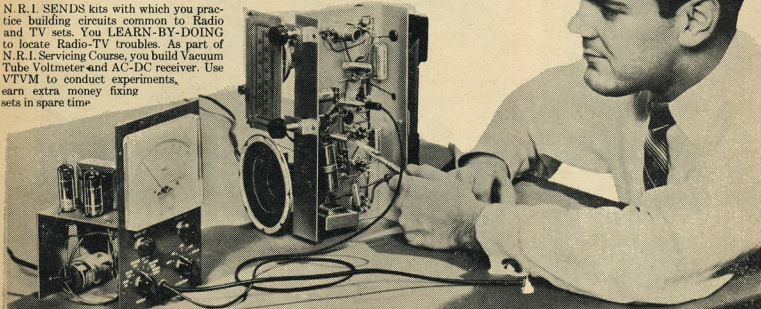
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